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In conclusion it may be noted that the volume contains several photographic reproductions of manuscript maps made by Peter Pond, on one of which is indicated the place on the St. Peter's (Minnesota) River where he spent the winter of 1773-74, also that the chapter on "The Struggle with the Hudson's Bay Company" tells the story of the Selkirk settlement in the Red River Valley.

S. J. B.

Portland Prairie in Present Times, Including a Treatise on the Physical Formation of Houston County. (Larimore, North Dakota, H. V. Arnold, 1919. 122, xl p.)

Mr. Arnold is the author, editor, publisher and printer of a series of volumes on the history of small communities, familiar to him, in various parts of the Northwest. His most recent contribution to the field of local history supplements an earlier volume, *Old Times on Portland Prairie* (1911. 120 p.). The scene of both these narratives is an agricultural community embracing portions of two townships, Winnebago and Wilmington, in the southern part of Houston County, Minnesota, and a small section of northern Iowa. In the earlier volume the author presents the history of this locality to the year 1880; in the later volume, in which that history is continued to the present, he emphasizes an aspect of his subject too often ignored by writers of local history, the economic and social development of the community in question. He repeats at times, in so doing, material published in the first narrative, but this is usually greatly condensed.

The first three chapters of the present volume contain a general account of the development of Portland Prairie into a modern stock-raising and dairying community and of the consequent alterations in the life of the people. The opening chapter describes conditions in the pioneer period, from 1851 to 1865, for the sake of contrasting the "days of straw barns and generally indifferent houses" when the settler depended upon wheat raising for a livelihood with the more prosperous and improved aspect of the prairie farms in present times. A brief chapter on "An Intermediate Stage" treats of the transitional period between 1865 and 1900,

when living conditions were rapidly improving and the radical industrial change was taking place. A community transformed by these altered conditions is pictured in a third chapter on "Present Times." Today the inhabitants of the region, in marked contrast to those of half a century ago, have all the comforts and conveniences possible for the modern farmer; today the district is a leading butter-producing section of the "Bread and Butter State." Specific examples of the industrial evolution of the locality, consisting of sketches of "Some of the Prairies Farms," are presented in chapter 5. Whenever possible, the author begins the history of a farm with the original acquisition of the land from the government; he then proceeds to discuss succeeding owners and their family records and to enumerate improvements on the property. The geography and geology of the region are treated in chapter 4 and in the appendix, respectively.

Mr. Arnold has based his work upon information acquired by long residence in Portland Prairie and by personal acquaintance with its inhabitants. The book is somewhat crudely printed and, since the author is "accustomed to put whole pages in type without using any written copy," it is not surprising that numerous typographical errors appear. This is a minor matter, however, compared to the service which Mr. Arnold has rendered not only to the community whose history is thus preserved, but to the cause of history in general, for the conditions and transformations which he describes in detail are typical of agricultural communities throughout the Northwest.

BERTHA L. HEILBRON

The Story of a Minnesotan. By LOREN WARREN COLLINS, former associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. (N. p., n. d. 86 p. Portrait.)

This autobiographical sketch, written by Judge Collins after his retirement from the supreme bench in 1904, was found among his papers after his death in 1912 and has just been published by his sons for private circulation. It is a narrative of considerable historical interest, not so much for the few striking experiences related as for its vivid portrayal of frontier life and conditions.